



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
FEBRUARY 2017



Friends in Christ—

As I said in my sermon on the last Sunday in January, national and world events are moving so fast that a sermon that seems appropriate on Thursday might be woefully out of date by the time Sunday morning arrives. After quickly rewriting my sermon on Saturday, I told you that I had a feeling that we are moving into a time when there might be a lot of incomplete and inarticulate sermons.

Now I find—for a much happier reason—that I need to write a new article for this newsletter.

I want express my heartfelt thanks to our congregation for the very generous and completely surprising bonus that you gave to me during our annual meeting on January 29. Speaking to you out of my astonishment that morning, I know that I was “incomplete and inarticulate.” But I am grateful for this expression of your support for my ministry here. Derek Willard’s kind words spoke of much that we have achieved together over the past 9½ years. Among all that he mentioned, I was grateful for his comment that I have helped our church give greater expression to our Open and Affirming commitments *begun during Bruce Fischer’s pastorate here*. I have always given thanks for the leadership of Bruce as well as that of Ed Heininger and others before me. I am proud to be the heir of their ministry.

As I give thanks for all that we have done, I realize that it is time to look forward. And indeed with all the changes here we have begun to do that. A while ago I read an article about a minister’s first ten years in a congregation. I want to share what it says about year ten:

If you have lasted up to the tenth year and have invested well in your tenure of ministry, you and your congregation share a mutual relationship of trust, a shared corporate identity, and a common vision of ministry. Your relationship with the congregation can provide the resources to begin working on whom you can become. ...Your pastoral leadership function will take on new directions...and now is the time to begin thinking about the life of this congregation two or three generations into the future. Now is the time your ministry begins.

As we give thanks for our past, let us join together this year in thinking about the church that we want to become.

Peace,

Bill

P.S. I thank everyone in the congregation for your kind and generous gift at Christmas. I am filled with gratitude, not only for your Christmas gift but also for the ongoing gift of your call to me to be your pastor. Thank you for your support and prayers throughout the year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

During worship on Sunday, January 22, we welcomed eight new members into our congregation. They are:

Kate Edwards: Kate grew up in Iowa City and has lived in Arizona, Minnesota, Michigan, and even Ames. She moved back to Iowa City in 2010. She operates Wild Wood Farm, a local organic vegetable farm. Kate dates new member Derek Lehman, which, as she says, “keeps me pretty busy.” Family, community, good food, farming, and the environment are very important to Kate and shape her views and spiritual life.

Ruben Lebron: Ruben grew up in Puerto Rico. He came to Iowa to study animal science at ISU, eventually changing his major to studio arts. A painter and book binder, Ruben works at the Iowa City Public Library. He is interested in the arts, literature, literacy, and writing.

Derek Lehman: Derek grew up in Iowa City and graduated from City High in 2000. He studied mechanical engineering at ISU and has worked for various appliance manufacturers since graduation. He enjoys the outdoors, music, family, and friends. Derek dates new member Kate Edwards and is “thankful to be in her life.”

Emily Legel: Emily is a graduating senior at UI, currently exploring the field of urban planning. She is active in the Johnson County Democrats and various campus activities. In her spare time Emily enjoys cooking, journaling, and attending theatre performances.

Larry Miller: Larry grew up in central Iowa and moved to Iowa City in 1965. An electrical engineer, Larry retired from Fisher Controls in 2002. For many years he commuted to work by flying a plane to Marshalltown every day.

Sandy Miller: Sandy also grew up in central Iowa. She graduated from Drake with a degree in elementary education and taught school in Des Moines and Iowa City. Sandy and Larry recently moved to Oaknoll.

Liz Williams: Liz moved from Dallas to Iowa City with Michael 2½ years ago. When she’s not chasing around their active toddler, Sam, Liz is busy working as an account manager for a global consulting firm. Life will get even busier this June when Liz and Michael will welcome son #2.

Michael Williams: after living in Iowa City for 2½ years, Michael is happy to have found a church home. Michael works at the College of Business and is eager to build a home here for a growing family. You’ll know his son, Sam—he will be the one yelling “Donut time!” each Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSION BOARD SPONSORS ADULT EDUCATION SERIES CONTINUES

The Mission Board’s 6-week program on racism entitled: “Does Racism Require Intent” will continue to be explored using the “White Privilege—Let’s Talk” curriculum published by the national office of the United Church of Christ in 2016: <http://www.uccresources.com/products/white-privilege-lets-talk-a-resource-for-transformational-dialogue-pdf-download>

This series reflects the urgency in our church and in our society to address divisiveness related to “whiteness” and “otherness” which continue to undermine the Christian values of equality for all that we in the UCC have long cherished, even from the days of the Amistad.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, **February 5**, we will participate in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. This national grassroots project has raised millions of dollars for hunger relief. Since 2008 we have raised over \$1,700 for this offering. Please look for the young people with soup pots after worship. All gifts will be sent to the Crisis Center Food Pantry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Our church served 145 lunches at the Free Lunch Program on January 30, 2017. So many wonderful members of our church volunteered their time by donating and preparing food, serving and/or cleaning up on this day:

Ethel Bloesch, Ginny & Bryan Clemons, Bill Dickinson, Judy Doorenbos, John & Randee Fieselmann, Paula Forest, John Fuller, Pat Goeldner, Patte Henderson, Kathi Koegle, Ruth & Ken Kuntz, Nan Martin, Diane Olson, Connie Parsons, Edie Roberts, Patty & Dale Roberts, Rick Ruppert, Betty Stein, Sally Strang and Lee Wood.

Thank you all so much for your time and cheerful helpfulness in making this day so successful. Our guests let it be known how much they appreciated all the nourishing food that was provided!

Our next serving date is Memorial Day, Monday, May 29. A sign up sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by the first of May. As always, this wouldn't be possible without you! *Vicki Thomae*

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND WORSHIP SERVICE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ON MARCH 1

On Wednesday, March 1, our Board of Christian Education will host a pancake supper in Rockwood Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends and join others for pancakes, eggs, sausage, good company, and good conversation. It will help with planning if you sign up on the sheet in Rockwood Hall or call the church office (337-4301) to let us know how many will attend. But please join us even if you haven't done this in the past.

After eating, we will hold our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00. This will be a time of music and song, scripture and prayer, and the imposition of ashes for those who want them. The worship service is designed for people of all ages and child care will be available for toddlers and infants.

LITERACY PROGRAM

Our program will start a new 8 week session in February. We are seeking new volunteers so can serve more students. The students are members of the Center for Worker Justice who are working on reading, writing and conversation skill. An orientation session will be held on Thursday, 2/2 from 6-8:30, supper provided. The commitment is for the 8 week session which will run from 2/9 through 3/30 – 8 Thursday evenings from 6-7:30. We are also looking for volunteers who would be willing to be substitutes one or more weeks. Please contact Pat Goeldner for more information. pgoeldner@earthlink.net or 319-338-1541.

“HOUSEHOLD SHOWER”

Refugee families living in Iowa City are in need of basic household items. The Mission Committee is sponsoring a “household shower” for these families with the theme of “Open your hearts and empty your cupboards.” New or gently used Items of need include:

- Dish Sets (plates, bowls, cups etc)
- Mugs
- King or Queen sized blankets and sheets
- Microwave Ovens
- Blenders
- Pots and pans
- Glass water pitchers
- Other kitchen/home items

Several large boxes will be placed in Rockwood Hall with collection dates of **February 12 and 19**. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Mission Committee. These items will be delivered to Iowa City Compassion and will be given to refugee families in need.

MIDWEEK MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

2017 will mark the ninth year of our popular Lenten Musical Meditations series beginning on Wednesday, March 8. The musical meditations will begin at noon and last for approximately 25 minutes. These midday recitals are free and open to the public. Please join us and bring a friend. (Continued Next Page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

LUNCH AND BREAKFAST IN FEBRUARY

The Women's Lunch will be on February 16 beginning at 11:45 am at El Bandito's Restaurant on Market Street. The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 18 beginning at 8 am at The Bluebird Diner on Market Street.

THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items start to go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.

FLOWERS ALWAYS ENRICH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

There is a NEW 2017 sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall for anyone who would like to provide flowers. They can be given in memory or honor of loved ones or in celebration of special events such as birthdays and anniversaries. (Flowers can also be given simply for the joy and beauty that they bring.) This information will be included in the Sunday bulletin. If you have questions, please contact Jane Murphy at 351-9079 or at murphyjane51@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

The Johnson County CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, April 9th, beginning at 1:30 pm at the Crisis Center of Johnson County.** For more information please go to crophungerwalk.org/iowacityia.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CLASS

On Tuesday, February 14 and Friday, February 17 from 10am to 4pm, classes for a 5-step action plan to help people with signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis will be offered at the Coralville Public Library. Anyone can take the course - from professionals to community members— but it is ideally designed for adults who work with young people, ages 12 to 18. Peggy Loveless, Ph.D and Mental Health Education Specialist will be the instructor. Pre-enrollment is required and there is a material fee of \$40. For more information, please contact Peggy at mhedspecialists@gmail.com or phone (319) 530-9847.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

The Standing in Solidarity! A Call for Fair Policing & Justice Reform group will gather at 2pm on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 6621 C Ave NE, in Cedar Rapids. Join the Jerime Mitchell Family, Iowa Justice Alliance, Cedar Rapids NAACP and The Center for Workers Justice, among others, as they stand in solidarity against the injustice members of our community have experienced. **For more information call 515-288-7171 or 319-560-0482 or go to consultation-of-religious-communities@googlegroups.com.**

SKILL BUILDING FOR EFFECTIVE ACTIVISM

The UI School of Social Work is holding a series of teach-ins during the late winter and early spring to help community members strengthen their abilities for activism. These workshops are open to the public without charge and will be held from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in North Hall, room 322.

2/15: Stand up, speak out

3/22: How to lobby

4/19: Interventions for bystanders

(Continued Next Page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, April 9th, we will dedicate our offering to OGHS. The United Church of Christ has at its core transforming lives! Why? Because we are all one in Christ.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are transformed through support that provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education, and disaster relief in the U.S. and internationally.

Let us give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

With a new year comes new opportunities to volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages in Iowa City. With the store now being a successful permanent store, volunteers are needed to help assist customers every day. Contact Cassidy at iowacity@tenthousandvillages.com or [319-519-2104](tel:319-519-2104) if you can help occasionally or on a regular basis. Your volunteer spirit provides a livelihood for artisans in 38 countries. Take a shopping trip to the Village store at 105 S Dubuque St, Iowa City.

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE, 2017

The Shelter House Used Book Sale will be March 25 and 26. The site will be the Johnson County Fairgrounds. As always, we need as many books as possible. Historically we have received 20,000 books for the sale, and last year we earned \$17,000 for the Shelter House. People are encouraged to drop off their books in late February and March at the Fairgrounds, but pick ups can be scheduled. We will definitely transport books from Rockwood Hall, and you can bring your book donations to the church at any time. **Contact Donna Hirst if you need assistance in transporting books to the sale site, donna-hirst@uiowa.edu.**

Because of the location we only have late February and March for the sorting. All the books will need to be boxed by subject in an adjoining building and moved to the sale building the week before the sale. We will need far more volunteers than we've had in the past. During March Sorting, Boxing, and Moving books will occur:

- Feb.26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19 **1:00-3:00** (Sundays)
- 2/27, 3/6, 3/13 **10:00-2:00** (Mondays)
- 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 **10:00-2:00** (Wed.)
- 3/4 ,3/11, 3/18 **10:00-2:00** (Sat.)
- Set up for the sale will occur March 20-24 (**9:00-4:00**).
- Volunteering for a day does not commit you to 8 hours, but only as many hours as you have to donate.

Volunteer tasks:

- Incoming boxes of donated books will need to be sorted into subject categories. We will potentially receive 20,000 books.
- All books will need to be boxed according to their subject.
- Boxes of books will need to be moved to a staging area; beginning March 20 boxes will need to be moved into the sale building; and some unsold books will need to be moved out of the sale room.

A sign up sheet is in Rockwood Hall. For additional information contact Donna Hirst, donna-hirst@uiowa.edu, 351-5253.

SOUND OF FRIENDSHIP DESSERT CONCERT

COMPEER of Johnson County's Annual Concert will be held on February 18, 2017 beginning at 6:45 p.m. with music by Al Zimmerman. Held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2301 E. Court St., the concert will also feature Kol Shira, Chase Garrett, Jeff Rohlwing and Johnson County Landmark. The concert will be followed by a wonderful variety of desserts provided by local restaurants. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available from Jo Bowers today. Please support the work of this worthy non-profit and join us for a lovely evening of music and dessert.

Our Children's Library

"I'm Right Here"

By Constance Ørbeck-Nilssen

Illustrated by Akin Duzakin

This is a more serious book than we've encountered in quite some time. The subject is fear. Fear is familiar to both the young and the old, but in surprisingly different ways.

Seeking reassurance about his own fears while on a walk with his grandmother, William asks her about her fears. He probably thinks she'll list things like loud noises or thunder or even barking dogs. As it turns out, she tells him that she fears losing the things she loves—like birds singing or swans swimming or him. Their time together talking manages to calm both of their fears. Children from age 4 through 8 could learn from this book.

"In this poignant story, an anxious boy walks through a forest with his grandmother. . . . When William asks her what she is afraid of, she says, 'I'm afraid that I won't see the swans down in the pond. . . . I'm afraid of never again seeing those proud white birds gliding across the water.' . . . When William's grandmother explains that it's the losses that will accompany her eventual death that frighten her, he offers her solace. Duzakin alternates between the softly lit forest scenes and ominous, gray depictions of Williams's fear-driven scenarios while Ørbeck-Nilssen maintains a gentle, comforting tone, emphasizing serenity over gloominess."—*Publishers Weekly*

"This unusual story is about a little boy named William who, while taking a walk with his grandma, asks her if she is ever afraid. They then compare their fears. The little boy is afraid of typical things that scare kids, like angry dogs, stinging wasps, dangerous fires, sharks, wars, thunder, and lightning.

The grandmother, amazingly honest for a kid's book, points out the things she is afraid of, such as never again seeing flowers in bloom, or hearing the birds sing in the springtime. The boy doesn't get it.

Grandma explains that when she was young, she had fears more like those of the little boy. Now that she is old, 'I'm just afraid of losing everything I love.' She explains, 'When we get old, we die,' says Grandma, 'and then I won't be able to see you anymore.'

He asks, couldn't she see him from wherever she goes? And couldn't she then still see the flowers and birds, and 'everything'? 'You are absolutely right,' says Grandma.

So, the boy concludes, Grandma needn't be afraid anymore.

This book provides a very nice way to teach small children about the different perspectives of children and adults and to open discussions about fears in general and about death in particular."—*Kid Lit Review*

Look for this book (and others) on the library shelves in Rockwood Hall. Explore the rest of our library for additional worthwhile reading.

Edie Roberts
Children's Librarian



Serving Our Church

In the Congregational United Church of Christ, we all share in performing duties for the worship service. A list is provided each month for the assignments of Greeters, Ushers and Hospitality.

Please arrive one-half hour before the service, which begins at 10:15 am.

If you cannot serve on the assigned date, please call someone else on the list to arrange a trade with them.

Please let the Deacon of the Month, **Jane Murphy**, know of any changes.

She can be reached at 319-351-9079 or murphyjane51@gmail.com

FEBRUARY	GREETERS	USHERS	HOSPITALITY
5	Tina Koepnick Jean Willard	Bryan Clemons Courtney and Todd Nelson Nicole Pearson	Marci Kuechenmeister Laura Stunz
12	Jeanna Otto Jason Beerends	Elizabeth Oakes Eugene Buck Diane and Darin Wells	Rick and Phyllis Ruppert
19	Raven and Courtney Rowe	James Savage Dwight Schumm Mary Shepherd Karen Smith	Mark and Carrie Whittaker
26	Derek and Pam Willard	Steve and Sue Wolken Jeff Barton Gloria Hanson	Isabella Myers Pat Goeldner

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	2  -Literacy Class Orientation 6:00pm -Voices of Soul 6:30pm	3	4
5 - Church School 9:15am - Worship 10:15am Communion -Confirmation Class 11:30am - EEC Coffee Sales - Chinese Class 1:30 pm	6	7 - Diaconate 6:30pm - Mission Board 7 pm - CE Board 7 pm	8 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon	9 - Foreign Relations Luncheon—Noon - Literacy Class 6:00 pm - Voices of Soul 6:30 pm	10	11
12 - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Chinese School 1:30 pm	13	14 	15 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon -Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	16 -Women's Lunch at El Bandito's at 11:45 am - Literacy Class 6:00 pm -Voices of Soul 6:30 pm	17	18 - Men's Breakfast at The Bluebird Diner at 8 am
19 - Choir 9 - Church School 9:15am - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Class 11:30 am - Chinese School 1:30 pm	20	21 - -Stewardship Board 4 pm - Membership Board Kick Off 5:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm	22 - Midday Prayer/ Meditation Noon - Foreign Relations Luncheon Noon	23 - Literacy Class 6:00 pm - Voices of Soul 6:30 pm	24	25
26 - Choir 9am - Church School 9:15 -Worship 10:15am - Chinese School 1:30 pm	27	28 - Church Council 7 pm				



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|------|-------------------------------|------|----------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 2/2 | Noralee Balmer | 2/11 | McKenzie Brown | 2/23 | Ethan Buck |
| 2/3 | Beth Parker | 2/13 | Steve Bowers | 2/24 | Eugene Buck |
| 2/5 | Steven Hanson | 2/14 | Laura Ghabel | 2/25 | Andrew Ghabel |
| 2/8 | Larry Parsons | 2/15 | Sharyn Reitz | 2/27 | Nicole Neems
Taylor McBurney |
| 2/10 | Frank Snider
Courtney Rowe | 2/21 | Nicole Pearson | 2/28 | Tom Mittman |

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 North Clinton Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52245-1700**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

PARKING INFORMATION

Parking is available evenings and all day Sunday at the IMU or North Hall Parking Ramps.

Ask your usher for a voucher (or get one from the church office).

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Rev. William Lovin
Music Director:	Chris Nakielski
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Director of Church School:	The Rev. Patte Henderson
Children's Choir Director	Colette Nakielski
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
Custodians:	Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

HOW TO CONTACT US

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm
Phone: 319-337-4301

E-mail:

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Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org
Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@gmail.com
Music Director... christopher-nakielski@uiowa.edu
Dir of Church School ... pattehenderson@ gmail.com
Children's Choir Dir....colette.nakielski@gmail.com
Communication Assist....cpatramanis@yahoo.com

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